INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic Conservation & Reclamation W. Va.

Title: Watoga State Park

Author: Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Date Submitted: _____ Length: 1500 Words

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Contents Complete statement on Watoga State Park, Civs location area, recreational facilities; brief account of CCC camps.

Source: Sources given

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A-8702

This Article was written

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Mrs Rella F Yeager

From information from the officials of the camps and from my own observation while on a research trip.

Beautiful Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County is typical of those in all of the state parks being developed by the State Conservation Commission. Watoga has 10,335 acres of land in the Allegheny Mountains east of the Greenbrier river in Pocahontas County. It is under development as a state park and will offer to the public when completed one of the most attractive visiting places in the United States--a "Nature lovers paradise". Plans call for everything that can be added to make it a show place.

There is a large lake eleven acres in extent, for boating, bathing and fishing; a number of ~~artificially built and~~ well furnished cabins; camp sites, picnic grounds; a system of automobile roads, foot trails and bridle paths.

Good fishing may be found in nearby streams in season and hunting upon lands adjacent to the park which in itself constitutes an excellent game preserve.

Watoga Park is the largest of West Virginia State Parks. It is located in heavily wooded rolling mountain country. It has a fine growth of young timber and plant life, so fine in fact that a part of it has been designated as an arboretum.

West Virginia is a mountainous land of rugged beauty and possesses publicly administered forests and parks which represent all phases of the picturesque formations with which nature so richly endowed the state. These areas will serve the threefold purpose of growing another crop of merchantable timber, providing outdoor recreational facilities for the citizens of the state and visitors and will serve to a considerable extent

as game preserves from which to repopulate adjacent public shooting and fishing grounds.

The state parks are being developed through the agency of CCC Camps. Much progress has been made in fitting them for the enjoyment of the people. Trips can be arranged for beautiful drives, week ends, Sundays and holidays. One of these parks can be reached in a few hours from almost any section of the State.

In the various camps there is plenty of entertainment for the boys; they can hunt deer, squirrels, grouse and bear in season. They have individual counsel by the Educational advisers in the various camps and by the Company Commander, the doctor and others are available. They get to know the boy, his problems, home conditions, and try to help him get adjusted and get him interested in the camp educational program and recreational hobby and leisure time activity. When they leave camp, 90 per cent of the CCC boys have work. The boys are popular with the public. Many are now coming to believe that the CCC is largely educational training to make the boys better fitted physically, mentally and vocationally to get along in the world; to aid them in self culture, self-expression and better use of leisure time. It is a work for the conservation and training of youth as well as the conservation on national resources.

More and more the public is realizing what the CCC is doing in the camps. The camps are becoming popular and will probably be made permanent. A visit to any of these camps

will make anyone an enthusiast. Visitors enjoy going as they are so kindly welcomed by the officials and camp boys, and they plan another visit to bring some friends who have not been there. Citizenship is stressed in all the camps and many of the fine boys in the camps have gone to their homes better men and better citizens.

Watoga State Forest is a pleasant wooded country and even should the blight kill all the chestnut there are enough trees of other kinds on most of the area to make good cover for the game, many signs of which were noted by the State Foresters, who recently made an estimate of the chestnut timber.

~~Rella Yeager~~ This Article was written by Mrs. Wm. B Curry and given

~~State Park~~ Conservation

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Watoga State Park

Rella F. Yeager

(Lookout house - named Ann Bailey).

The lookout house is a reproduction of Indian warfare blockhouses. The trails in park have been given Indian names

Source:

Pocahontas times.

Mrs. Bella Yeager

This Article was written by Mrs. Wm. B Curry and Grant

Bella P. Yeager

Bella Yeager -1-

Grant Goff's other Papers

Bella Yeager

WS 219
June 9

WATOGA STATE PARK

The lookout house on Watoga State Park is a reproduction of the block houses of Indian warfare days and most properly it is called for Ann Bailey, a heroine of pioneer times. It is constructed of round logs, two storeis in height. The first floor is fourteen by fourteen feet, with a broad stairway of hewn timber leading to the second story, the dimensions of which are twenty by twenty feet. The roof is of clapboards, sloped four sides. On each side are openings for loop holes and lookout places.

It was the plan of the architect to give these lookout houses names of heroines of frontier days and makers of West Virginia history. Most appropriately, the name of Ann Bailey has been given to the block house on Watoga State Park. Ann Bailey (Mad Ann) was a considerable of a character back in Indian times. Along about 1777 she came to the Fort at Charleston with word of a contemplated raid by the Indians. It was found that the supply of powder was short. Some say there was no spontaneous volunteering on the part of the men of the fort to go to Fort Union (Lewisburg) for a supply of powder and others say that Mrs. Bailey insisted on going herself, and that alone. My guess is that the latter is the true version. Anyway, the lady mounted her horse Liverpool, (named for Mrs. Bailey's birthplace in England) and took the trail for Lewisburg, 110 miles away. When the powder was packed on the horses, the woman scout refused the protection of a detachment of militia men. In about three days time, Mrs. Bailey and her pack train made Charleston. It has always been my understanding that the Indians knew about the shortage of powder

and when they did attack, they received the surprise of their lives. There was powder to burn!

Lookout Ann Bailey is located on the high point, just southeast of Camp Seebert. It overlooks the Parks seven miles frontage on Greenbrier River, with its five bends, from above Seebert to Denmar. To the west are the ramparts of the Back Alleghenies--Droop, Briery, Sewell, Cranberry and other peaks and ranges of the Black Forest. Below it lies that garden spot, the Little Levels, spoken of in this paper by a visiting son of Albion, in 1877, as reminding him of an English countryside, but for the grim mountains. To the east the Alleghany Front, and the Beaver lick, while all around are the wooded ridges and deep canyons of the Watoga State Park.

Another interesting and poetic touch was given when it was decided to give Indian names to each of the trails in Watoga State Park. Trails already built and named are:--

The truck trail from Camp Seebert to Camp Watoga is named Momongoseneka from the Delaware, meaning Big Stone Creek.

The truck trail from Denmar to Seebert, following Greenbrier River is to be named Weotawa, from the Miami name for Greenbrier River.

The bridle and foot trail paralleling Rock Run will be Tekehelloke, from the Delaware, meaning Falling Creek.

The trail from Denmar up Laurel Creek to Camp Watoga is to be Pocatelico, Shawnee for "Plenty of Fat Doe."

The horse and foot trail now in use on the mountain overlooking Seebert is the "Trail of the Cliffs," and the one following Workman Ridge will be Skyway.

Mrs. Ellis Yeager — Mr. Wm. B. Curry and group

William B. Curry
National Park Service

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Hemmed in by wooded, towering mountains, Watoga State Park, situated in Pocahontas County, is rapidly taking form as one of the most complete and magnificent parks in the entire United States. The West Virginia Conservation Commission, and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, cooperating, are making every effort to have the approximate 11,000 acres of park territory ready for a public opening in June, 1937.

Watoga State Park is the largest of the four State parks now under construction in various parts of West Virginia. Located in the beautiful Greenbrier Valley, the mountains and valleys in the vicinity are rich in tradition. It lies two miles off U. S. Route 219, three miles east of Hillsboro. This route is known as the old Senaca Trail, and is prominently mentioned in James Fennimore Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales". The trail stretches from Senaca Lake in New York State to Georgia. Locally, the road is often referred to as the "Kentucky Trace" and was travelled by Daniel Boone and other trail blazers in their many hunting and scouting treks through this section of the country.

In pre-Revolutionary War days, the tract of land comprising Watoga was a part of the far-reaching neutral hunting grounds for northern, southern and western Indian tribes. Many a bloody battle was fought in and around the surrounding mountains by Indians seeking to retain the territory as their own private hunting grounds. White settlers followed, and a new civilization dawned. Some of the first settlements made in what is now the State of West Virginia were made nearby. During the War between the States, both armies conducted numerous foraging expeditions into this section. A few miles from the park was the scene of the Battle of Droop Mountain.

At the present time, twenty-four log cabins of different styles are nearing completion and should be ready for occupancy, along with approximately sixteen others, by next Spring. Each of the cabins, when finished, will be provided with a wide stone fireplace, electricity, hot and cold showers, inside toilet, and all necessary furniture and kitchen utensils. A park commissary will be centrally located for the convenience of vacationists.

A member of the Commission recently expressed his regrets that none of the cabins or park facilities were sufficiently completed to permit the public use of them before Spring of 1937. At that time, however, a price schedule for the renting of the cabins will be announced.

One of the many creeks coursing through the park has been dammed, creating a twelve-acre lake. It has been well stocked with bass and sunfish, and, at the present, is closed to all fishermen.

Thirteen miles of park roads, fourteen miles of combination foot, horse and truck trails, are nearing completion. Many foot and vehicle bridges have been constructed in various places. A lookout tower on one of the high mountains, built according to the plans of the early blockhouse fort, commands an important and spectacular view of the surrounding scenery. This tower has been named in honor of Anne Bailey, famed in early border warfare.

Twelve acres will be equipped for persons interested in all day outings. This section will provide visitors with picnic shelters, stoves, tables, benches and a water supply.

The picturesque Greenbrier River serves as one of the boundary lines of the park. Known as one of the best fishing streams in the southeast, this River will afford sportsmen the opportunity to live in a cabin near its banks and spend hours angling for the wily trout, pike and bass. During the past three years, it has been stocked with thousands of bass, trout and panfish. Its cooling, green waters will also appeal to boaters and bathers.

Five hundred acres of the tract are made up of virgin oak and white pine forests, and approximately one hundred acres are of open meadow land. The remaining acres consist mainly of young forests or woodland. The Conservation Commission has designated 4,000 acres as a game refuge. This area has been stocked with deer, turkeys, quail, grouse and other game.

A keen-eyed visitor, almost any day, will be rewarded with a glimpse of a deer bounding through his native haunts. No hunting is permitted in the park, but an open season is declared at certain times of the year for the Monongahela National Forest, which almost surrounds the park.

The park offers rare opportunities for students in geology and botany. Within its boundaries are long mountain ranges with many interesting rock and mineral formations. Several universities have conducted field trips to make special studies of those attractions.

In early Spring, the mountains are an array of beautiful wild flowers of shades. A botanical study made the past Spring revealed hundreds of varieties of flowers blooming. Some of those found included: Lady's Slipper - in both pink and yellow; Orchids; Spring Beauties; Water Lilies; Wind Flowers; Columbine; Marsh Marigold; Buttercup; Bloodroot; Blue Lupine; Sweetbrier Rose; Wood Sorrel, and Fringed Polygala. As a result of the presence of so many flowers, 500 acres have been set aside as an arboretum for botany students in West Virginia University and other colleges.

Construction work is being carried on by two companies of Civilian Conservation Corps stationed in the park. T. M. Chook, State Park Authority, supervises the plans that are developing a park system in West Virginia that will rival those in other States. Boyd B. Hill, and Grady H. Arbegast, Camp Superintendents, are in charge of the construction projects under way in Watoga State Park.

All of the parks are being financed mainly through Federal funds. Once they have been completed and turned over to the State authorities, it will be the responsibility of the State to maintain and operate the parks.

Mrs Belle Geagen
Hillsboro W.Va

This Article was written by
Mr. Wm. B Curry and given
To Mrs Belle Geagen
The Article had the approval
of officials of
National Park Service.

William B. Curry
National Park Service

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At the present time, twenty-four log cabins of different styles are nearing completion and should be ready for occupancy, along with approximately sixteen others, by next Spring. Each of the cabins, when finished, will be provided with a wide stone fireplace, electricity, hot and cold showers, inside toilet, and all necessary furniture and kitchen utensils. A park commissary will be centrally located for the convenience of vacationists.

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Hillsboro W Va
August 1 1936

Mr James C Herbert — State Reader —
Federal Writers Projects
Kleeman Building
Charleston W Va

Dear Mr Herbert,

I am sending the article about Watoga State Park which I hope will be just what you want

Mr Wm B. Curry of the National Park Service prepared and gave me this article and it has the approval of the Watoga Park State officials. Both Mr Curry and I have descriptive articles of pretty places on the Park I had a delightful trip to the Park Thursday after I received your letter. I think this article is what you want. Mr Curry said he had some fine pictures that would be nice for this article If you want them, please let me know and I will send them.

Very truly yours
Belle Heager

Mrs Lockwood, and a new civilization

Mrs. Nella P. Yeager

Nella Yeager

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This Article was given to Nellie Yeager by Mr. Wm B Curry and has the Approval of State officials of the National Park Service

William B. Curry
National Park Service

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Mrs. Bella F. Yeager
Bella Yeager

From Camp Draper -1-
and Pocahontas Officials
Sent To Bella Yeager
for research work

WATOGA STATE PARK

Watoga State Park is owned by the State of West Virginia and contains 10,025 acres. 500 acres of this being virgin oak and white pine forest, 12 acres in lake, 100 acres of open meadow, leaving a total of 9413 acres of young forests or wooded land, which is well stocked with wild game. Approximately 4000 acres will be left as nature intended. The fame of this park is spreading and this rolling world would like to visit this picnic place on high mountains, clear streams, deep shady canyons, long wooded ridges, and open grassy places.

For the good of the United States as a whole and of West Virginia and its adjoining states in particular, it is a necessity that Watoga State Park be developed as quickly as possible so it can be used as an outing place for the public. This work of developing should be carried forward with utmost dispatch rather than be retarded by cutting down forces which at present are none too large to put Watoga State Park in shape to receive guests.

The National Park Service and State Park ECW in co-operation with the Conservation Commission fits in with the scheme of the old fashioned idea of a good time by getting back to nature and taking the women and children along. While visitors to the Yellow Stone National Park number into the hundreds of thousands each year, only a very small percentage of the people can avail themselves of this privilege by reason of great distances from centers of population. Then too, the many visitors who do visit Yellow Stone National Park do not necessarily follow the injunction given of

old, "to see Venice and die." Even they are possible visitors to Watoga State Park.

The Watoga State Park is partially surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest, and one will supplement the other in that there is no hunting on the park but nice head-quarters in the way of cabins for those who wish to hunt in the National Forest, and it will also furnish recreational areas for these hunters.

There is also unusual attractions in the Watoga State Park for students of geology and botany. Here begin the folded ranges of the endless mountains, and the park will supply headquarters and starting places to study first hand, probably the most interesting geological formations in all the country, without which the knowledge of no student is complete. Witness the continued expeditions of classes from Columbia, Dennison, and other Universities to this region.

As for the students of botany, we have the overlapping of the Canadian, Carolinian, and Virginian species of plants. There is a possibility in the future of this park taking care of field classes in botany not only from colleges and universities, but from high schools as well. No training in this most interesting and absorbing study can be complete without firsthand knowledge of this region where northern and southern flora mix with that you would naturally expect here.

People too, like to visit the Greenbrier Valley because of its rich Colonial, Revolutionary, Indian, and Traditional history. Watoga State Park when ready, will add its attractions to bring students of history here. The Park lies within two miles, connected with paved road, of U. S. Route 219, known as the Seneca Trail.

miles of telephone lines, four miles of electric power lines, 4000 feet of pipe line, 12 acres of picnic area, five wells and pump houses, four miles of park roads surface for all year around use, two acres of landscaping around dam and lake, two picnic shelters, five miles of fencing, 600 rods of guard rail, 5 camp stoves and fire places, 20 tables and bench combination, forty acres of food cover planting.

A great work is well begun and it will require the combined effort of at least two camps to complete it in the style, within a reasonable time.

West Virginian's should never miss an opportunity to thank and commend our Congressman Randolph for his splendid co-operation, tireless efforts and valuable assistance in his fight to maintain the West Virginia CCC camps at their present strength.

Inventory of Materials

Topic: Conservation and Planning

Title: Watoga State Park - Camp Secret

Author: Ralph A. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 780 words

Editor: _____

Status: Complete

Contents: Complete statement on Watoga Park - camp secret. Gives directions for reaching Park, description, recreational facilities; camp secret accomplishments, area, cost, educational facilities of CCC boys.

Source:

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Nella P. Yeager

WATOGA STATE PARK.

Each week of the summer brings larger and larger numbers of tourists to visit Watoga State Park, and to enjoy the beauties of nature so abundantly displayed there. Facilities are being developed to make the Park an even greater attraction to tourists. Near the lake three log cabins to accommodate tourists are being completed. Each of the cabins will provide ample room for a family of five. Each will be furnished with electric lights and running water.

Watoga State Park is doing much to give Pocahontas county an undisputed claim to the title of "The most Beautiful County in West Virginia," a title which no one who has lived long amid its picturesque beauty would ever think of questioning.

The visitors are likely to approach the Park over the Huntersville road and enter at the north corner. From this point, a well built road winds up Pyles Mountain and leads down Island Lick Run at a gentle grade. Mountains tower above on either side. Suddenly the valley widens and an expanse of water appears. This body of water is a recreational lake inpounded by a dam constructed by Company 1525, CCC Camp Watoga. The lake covers eleven acres and has a depth of twenty-five feet at the dam. The purpose of this lake is to provide recreation in the form of swimming, boating, and fishing. It plays its part in erosion and flood control.

At the head of the lake is a game enclosure in which many deer, wild turkeys and coons were fed and sheltered during the past winter. A number of these wild game animals including several broods of turkeys may still be seen at the enclosure.

On one side of the lake a motor trail ascends to an elevation of about three thousand two hundred feet. From this high ridge a spacious panorama of mountains and farms, streams and woodlands are unfolded. If the visitor continues down Island Lick Run from the lake he sees wild flowers in profusion on all sides. Cabins designed to be in harmony with the scenery around them are found along the way. This road ends at Camp Seebert on Greenbrier River.

Other beautiful excursions, some accessible to motor travel, some open to hikers only, are afforded within the nine thousand, six hundred and eighty one acres embraced by the Park.

The National Park Service and Conservation Commission of West Virginia extends to the public an invitation to visit our Parks.

F. Yeager

By Congressman Edmiston -1-

~~CCC WORK~~

CAMP SEEBERT

Congressman Andrew Edmiston returned this week from a two-weeks vacation at Camp Seebert, Watoga State Park, Pocahontas County, where he had an opportunity to observe the work of the Civilian Conservation corps.

The work of the CCC has been expressed in many ways, said Congressman Edmiston, but perhaps never better than by a young man with whom I talked while in Camp Watoga. The boy said:

"The CCC has greatly changed the outlook on life I had many months ago when I entered camp. I am no longer discouraged and easily beaten. I believe that I can find a position when I leave camp, and hold it as well as the man who is working next to me. The CCC has given me self-confidence and new ambition to succeed".

There are two companies at Watoga. In the two years they have been there they have constructed twenty-seven miles of excellent road through the mountains, Congressman Edmiston said. He continued to laud the camp, saying that the young men have constructed a forty-foot dam which impounds a beautiful artificial lake. It is being stocked with fish, and it will be a haven for sportsmen when it is opened to the public next summer.

Thirty of a program of fifty attractive log cabins have been built. They will be rented by the week to the public. The camp is built on 11,000 acres of waste timber land which was purchased by the state at $2.00 per acre, and it is one of the most attractive state parks, said Mr. Edmiston.

Fire Stations and reforestation work will continue in this part. From the beginning the CCC has judged its projects for their social and economic value, said the congressman. Improvement of forests and parks, reduction of loss from forest fires, insects, tree diseases, halting of soil wastage by erosion, development of public recreational areas, flood control, and conservation of wild life.

The boys in the camps have an opportunity to study and receive special competent instruction in stone masonry, surveying, forestry, terracing, road building, electrical work, project management, agriculture, auto repair, carpentry, cooking, mechanical drawing, radio servicing, and plane surveying. The foresight of President Roosevelt has given them a new lease on life, said Congressman Edmiston.